

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendments and the proceeding remarks are in response to the office action dated October 27, 2004. This office action response is timely filed.

Claims 4-6, 12, 15 and 18 have been left in their original form. Claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-14, 16-17, and 19-21 have been amended. Allowance of claims 1-21 are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a), which requires all features of the invention specified in the claims be shown. The Examiner rejected the drawings on the basis of the Applicant allegedly not illustrating the state-of-charge, the transistor, the relay, the mechanical switch, the first battery, the second battery, the second battery charging system and so on.

Applicant has enclosed a replacement drawing for FIG. 1 to correct a typographical error based on the duplicate use of reference number 130. No other amendments have been made to the other drawing sheets.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of the drawings. Applicant refers the Examiner to 37 CFR 1.83(a) which states in part, "However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol ..." (Emphasis added).

The symbol for a switch as demonstrated in FIGs. 3A and 3B is sufficient to convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that said switch can be represent by any conventional implementation such as a transistor, a relay, or a mechanical switch. Said artisan does not need to see a circuit for a transistor, a relay or a mechanical switch to understand the function of the switch. The descriptions provided by paragraphs 25 and 27 of the specification are sufficient to enable the artisan to practice the invention.

Similarly, references to the first and second battery are obvious in light of the specification describing charging of more than one battery operated device 140 (symbols of which are shown in FIG. 1) each carrying its own battery. Applicant refers the Examiner to paragraph 19 of the specification and FIG. 1 which provides sufficient understanding to the artisan that each battery in the battery operated devices 140 is charged "simultaneously" by the base 110 according to the battery charging system 250 (shown in FIG. 2) of said devices 140.

Applicant therefore contends that the specification and drawings comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) thereby providing one of ordinary skill in the art sufficient understanding to practice the invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is believed to be appropriate, and is respectfully requested.

II. Objection of the Specification

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter: "selectively controlling the number of turns of said first secondary coil in response at least in part to a state of charge of said at least one cell."

Applicant's amended claims state in part that the control circuit controls a number of turns of said secondary coil to adjust the output voltage according to a desired voltage to be applied to said at least one cell. This amendment is supported in the specification at paragraphs 15, 29, 31, 33, and 34 with references to FIG. 2. In view of the foregoing amended claims, Applicant believes withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate and respectfully requested.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 5, 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant refers Examiner to FIG. 2 and particularly to the charge voltage sensor 274 which is coupled between the terminals 266 and 267 of the cell 264 being charged by

the control circuit 254. As noted in paragraph 31 of the specification, the charge voltage sensor 274 measures the charge voltage applied to the cell 264 and determines therefrom if switch 256 requires adjustment to maintain a desired charge voltage across said cell 264. FIG. 2 clearly illustrates the feedback from the cell 264 to the processor 252 and is accordingly supported by the amended claims and the specification.

In view of the foregoing amended claims as supported by the drawings and the references made to the specification, Applicant believes withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate and respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8, 10-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Mizutani et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,756,697) in view of Bapat (U.S. Patent No. 5,786,84), herein referred to as Mizutani and Bapat.

It is believed independent claims 1, 13 and 19 as amended and their respective dependent claims distinguish the invention over Mizutani in view of Bapat. In particular, Mizutani in view of Bapat does not disclose a plurality of secondary coils each coupled to a corresponding control circuit that controls a number of turns of each secondary coil for simultaneously charging from a primary coil a corresponding plurality of cells coupled to each secondary coil. Moreover, Mizutani in view of Bapat does not disclose placing two or more of said secondary coils proximately to a base having a substantially flat surface coupled to the primary coil.

The amendments to claims 1, 13 and 19 and their respective dependent claims are supported by the battery charging system 250 shown in FIG. 2 and the plurality of battery operated devices 140 (see FIG. 1) each carrying their own secondary coil 252 and corresponding control circuit 254 for simultaneously charging at least one cell 264 when said devices 140 are placed proximately to the base 110 carrying the single primary coil 220 (see FIG. 1).

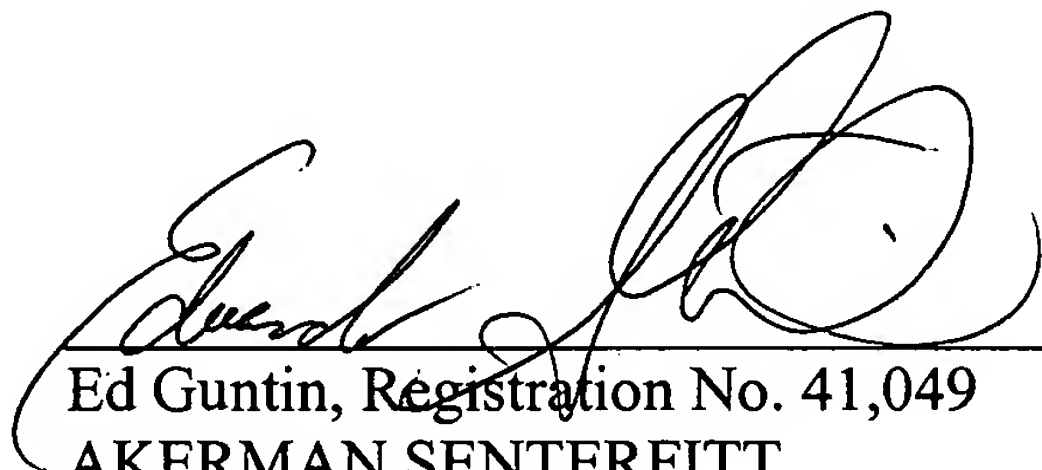
In view of the foregoing amended claims as supported by the drawings and the specification, Applicant believes withdrawal of this rejection is appropriate and respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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